

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed on June 25, 2003, claims 1-2, 5, 9-12, 15 and 20 are amended. The applicants hereby respectfully request that the patent application be reconsidered.

An item-by-item response to Examiner's objections or rejections is provided in the followings:

1-4. *Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 112*

The Examiner rejects claims 1-20 due to the term "freestanding" was not clearly defined.

In response to the rejections, claims 1-2, 5, 9-12, 15 and 20 are amended and the term "freestanding" is removed and the membrane is now amended as "deformable membrane" that is clearly shown both in the drawings and the specification.

The Examiner further rejects claims 2 and 12 due to the term "electromagnetic means for controlling and moving" was not clearly defined.

In response to the rejections, claims 2 and 12 are amended and the term "electromagnetic means for controlling and moving" is removed and the amended claims now add with another limitation of "means for deforming the membrane" that is clearly illustrated both in the drawings and the specification.

5-6. *Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 102*

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 10, 11, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cushing (U.S. Pat. 5,999,322).

In response to the rejection, claims 1, 10, 11, and 20 are amended. The amended claims are directed to a deformable membrane. Furthermore, the deformable membrane comprising:

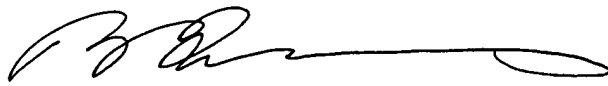
- a) a plurality of thin-film layers represented by $L(i)$, $i=1, 2, 3, \dots, N$ where N is a positive odd integer; and
- b) said deformable membrane having a mirror symmetrical layer structure relative to a middle layer $L(m)$ where $m=(N+1)/2$, and layer $L(m-j)$ and layer $L(m+j)$ having a same stress response-characteristic during a membrane deformation, where $j=1, 2, 3, \dots, (N-1)/2$.

The amended claims are now directed to a deformable membrane structure that has multiple thin-film layer with symmetrical stress response-characteristic during a membrane deformation. Since Cushing did not disclose a membrane that is deformed and did not disclose structure or configuration for achieving symmetrical stress response-characteristic during membrane deformation, the amended claims are not anticipated, novel and not obvious over the cited prior art reference. The Application would appreciate the Examiner would withdraw the rejections for the amended claims.

For the amendment set forth and the reasons provided above, the Applicants would like to respectfully request that Examiner's objection and rejections be withdrawn. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully request that the amended Application be allowed and issued as a Patent.

Respectfully submitted for Gaofeng Wang

By



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